

there is in Russia today “an atmosphere that is hostile to civil rights activists, and in fact, anyone with opinions that differ from the Kremlin’s. While “the treatment of Andrei Babitsky in January and February was shocking and disturbing, and the FSB raid on MediaMost in May was brazen,” she testified, this is “part of a larger pattern of harassment that has grown steadily worse over the last year and a half.”

In this connection, I would like to point out another proposal made by Professor Mendelson in her testimony. She suggested that President Clinton, while in Moscow next month at the Summit with President Putin, should meet with activists who are promoting human rights and democracy in Russia today. This gesture, she notes, “would send a signal not only to those in Russia who care about democracy but to those in Russia who do not.” I believe this idea is right on target. In fact, Mr. HOYER and I have written to the President noting that this year is the twenty-fifth anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Accords. We have encouraged the President to meet with the surviving veterans of the Soviet-era human rights struggle, and with their contemporary colleagues, in both Moscow and in Kyiv, where the President plans to meet with President Kuchma following his Moscow visit.

I hope that President Clinton will take this advice, as I believe such a gesture would give new impetus to the struggle for human rights and democracy in two pivotal nations of the international community.

In closing, I would call attention to a resolution to be introduced by our colleague Mr. LANTOS and House International Affairs Committee Chairman BEN GILMAN, regarding the issue of free media in Russia. I am pleased to join as an original cosponsor of this resolution, which among other provisions, calls upon the President, the Secretary of State, and other officials and agencies of the United States Government to emphasize to Russian government officials our concern and preoccupation that official pressures against the independent media are incompatible with democratic norms. I am pleased to co-sponsor this resolution, I hope my colleagues will join us, and I hope that President Clinton will heed this call when he meets with President Putin in Moscow next month.

act was inspired and led by Prime Minister Ehud Barak, whose strategic vision has once again opened up new opportunities for a comprehensive peace in the region.

With this act, Israel has taken a brave step forward in the interest of peace for its people and its neighbors. It is now incumbent upon other parties in the region to follow Israel’s lead, and to take the commensurate steps called for in U.N. Resolution 425 to further enhance security in the region. In addition to calling for an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, the U.N. resolution demands “strict respect for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries.” It also establishes and directs a United Nations force—known as UNIFIL—to work with the Lebanese government to restore its effective authority in southern Lebanon.

H. Con. Res. 331 addresses each element of U.N. Security Council Resolution 425, and calls for swift action by Israel’s neighbors to demonstrate their own commitment to the terms of the U.N. resolution and to peace in the region. With adoption of this resolution, the House of Representatives will make clear what we expect to occur, now that Israel has withdrawn from Lebanon:

First, we expect the United Nations to swiftly verify and endorse Israel’s withdrawal, in full compliance with U.N. Resolution 425.

Second, we expect the United Nations to move swiftly in conjunction with the Lebanese government to assert control over southern Lebanon.

Third, we expect Hezbollah and other groups in southern Lebanon to be disarmed in order to prevent terrorist activities originating from that area against the State of Israel and its people.

Fourth, we expect the Syrian government to follow Israel’s lead and remove its own forces from Lebanese territory.

And finally, we expect all parties to use this historic opportunity to resume negotiations aimed toward a comprehensive peace for all of the people of the Middle East.

Israel has shown today that it can—and will—take risks for peace. America stands by Israel in its courageous action, and shares its commitment to peace in the region. I call on Israel’s neighbors to demonstrate similar commitments in the days and weeks ahead.

The key word in this debate is permanent. Why would the United States want to move from an annual review process to recognizing China as a permanent trading partner? China continues to make the world a more dangerous place by its cooperation with rogue states and China’s ongoing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Normally, individuals and countries are rewarded because of their improvements or achievements. In this case, we would be recognizing a country that has violated every single trade agreement that they have signed with the United States. While proponents of this legislation may be correct in asserting that corporate America and our economy might benefit from this agreement, what message are we sending to the Chinese government, Chinese workers and the rest of the world.

Permanent recognition of China would tell the Chinese government and the rest of the world that when it comes to corporate profits and the almighty dollar the United States will throw in the towel on the very issues that the American people and our country have stood for from the beginning. This is of course not to mention the tens of thousands of jobs that will be lost in the United States as a result of this agreement.

The Chinese government continues to sit by idly while workers are paid 25 cents an hour, forced to work 12 to 14 hour days and are forced to work 7 days a week.

If a person is as bold as Zhang Jingfeng and attempts to organize employees into a union, they in fact can be jailed and sent to prison. Mr. Jingfeng in fact was sentenced to a 13-year prison term—and he is not alone.

In addition to a deplorable record on human rights, the Chinese people have limited freedom to assemble, limited freedom to express and practice their religious beliefs and there is limited freedom of the press.

I do not believe that United States firms are creating new markets in China—or new opportunities for Chinese workers. Instead, I believe they are creating new maquiladoras where products will be made for slave wages in horrible working conditions that will be sold to our consumers here in the United States for huge profits.

This is not the time to throw in the towel and grant permanent trading status to China. We should hold firm and review our trading relationship with China on an annual basis.

Mr. Speaker, for the above reasons, I strongly oppose PNTR and ask my colleagues to join me in voting “no.”

COMMENDING ISRAEL’S REDEPLOYMENT FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON

SPEECH OF

HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this resolution, and I rise today in strong support of its adoption.

Earlier this week, the Israeli government completed a courageous and historic act. It removed the last of its military forces from southern Lebanon, in compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 425. This

AUTHORIZING EXTENSION OF NON-DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT (NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS TREATMENT) TO PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to passage of the PNTR bill before the House of Representatives today.

Passage of this legislation would recognize China as a permanent trading partner as opposed to reviewing our trade relationship with China on an annual basis.

INTRODUCTION OF TUBEROUS SCLEROSIS AWARENESS RESOLUTION

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Tuberosus Sclerosis Awareness Resolution. Tuberosus Sclerosis is a common genetic disorder that remains poorly understood. Even though 1,000,000 people worldwide are affected with the disease, few are even aware of it.